

RON THORNBURGH  
Secretary of State



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## STATE OF KANSAS

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### *Media Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*Friday, August 2, 2002*

### **THORNBURGH PROJECTS LOW VOTER TURNOUT FOR PRIMARY ELECTION**

Topeka, KS - Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh is projecting a low voter turnout for the primary election scheduled to be conducted on Tuesday, August 6. "We will see a record low turnout in the upcoming primary election," stated Thornburgh. "The nationwide trend of dangerously low turnout has continued in this election cycle. Texas had a 13% turnout in their March primary election; Nebraska had a 21% turnout in their May primary election; and Arkansas had a 23.9% turnout in their June primary election. Several factors are expected to cause a low turnout here in Kansas, especially the disconnect among the electorate surrounding the past legislative session and the lack of contested and competitive races. I also believe the confusion surrounding redistricting will play a role in the decline in turnout on August 6."

The number of voters affiliated with each recognized political party includes:

Democrats -	438,139
Libertarian -	12,210
Reform -	1,904
Republican -	710,704
Unaffiliated -	425,850
Total -	1,588,859

(more)

## VOTER TURNOUT

Only 1,148,843 voters are eligible to participate in the primary election because only registered Democrats and Republicans are allowed to vote in the primary. Anyone who is registered as an unaffiliated voter can, on election day, choose to affiliate with one of the major parties (Democrat and Republican) and vote.

The Secretary of State's office predicts approximately 381,000 voters will turnout for the August primary. This calculates to be 24% with 33.4% of registered Republicans and Democrats turning out to vote. This figure represents a 58,000 person decrease from the 1998 primary election turnout, when 439,463 out of 1,089,119 eligible voters casts ballots.

Election results will be posted on the Secretary of State's web site at [www.kssos.org](http://www.kssos.org), starting at 8 p.m. on August 6.

**Primary Election Results**

Year	Registered Voters	Turnout Percent	
1990	1,166,031	481,788	41%
1992	1,187,515	516,532	43%
1994	1,273,648	458,336	36%
1996	1,352,393	532,294	39%
1998	1,493,779	439,463	29%
2000	1,557,692	425,568	27%

- Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee and Wyandotte counties make up 46% of the total registered voters.

- The top 10 counties include Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee, Wyandotte, Douglas, Reno, Leavenworth, Saline, Butler, and Riley. They make up 60% of the total registered voters.

***GO TO <http://www.kssos.org> FOR COMPLETE VOTER REGISTRATION NUMBERS BY COUNTY***

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